

Time for Quality of Life project submissions

It's time to submit any ideas you may have for improving the Quality of Life for TEAM KIRTLAND.

The 377th Air Base Wing and Air Force Materiel Command have given our base money for a number of Quality of Life projects over the past four years.

Funded projects have included the multi-use trail, the community playground, chapel upgrades, exercise equipment, ski equipment, recreation equipment for the Rio Grande Community Center, crash pads for the East Fitness Center and the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program.

Anyone who is a TEAM KIRTLAND member may submit a proposal.

The proposed program or project will be evaluated by a committee against the following criteria.

- ★ Affects a significant proportion of the base population
- ★ Promotes the concept of family defined as: *A group of people working toward a common goal, with mutual regard and concern for one another. This includes all ranks, married or single, civilian employees of any grade, members of their immediate families, along with our contract workers and their families.*
- ★ High level of visibility
- ★ Base has exhibited a level of commitment towards completion of the proposal
- ★ Promotes Quality of Life

Deadline for submissions is June 25.

Visit or call the Family Support Center at 846-0741 to obtain the Quality of Life 2005 application form.

Uniformed military have priority from 8-9 a.m.



Kirtland MVD
846-8390

Daily seatbelt use checks

377th Air Base Wing Safety Office has checked 8,634 vehicles for seatbelt use and found 207 violations in the first two weeks of May.



Photo by Dennis Carlson

377th Security Forces bus overturns

A 377th Security Forces Squadron bus overturned during a shift change, May 19. Six security forces members were aboard the bus when the driver lost control and tumbled off the pavement. The incident is under investigation. All were treated at area hospitals and released.

Albuquerque housing bias lawsuit settled

The Justice Department announced the settlement of a race and familial status discrimination lawsuit against the owners and managers of twelve Albuquerque, N.M. apartment complexes.

Fair Plaza Associates, its general partner, as well as three rental agents have agreed to pay \$120,000 to settle claims that they engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination in violation of the Fair Housing Act.

According to the complaint, the defendants allegedly refused to rent an apartment to a man with a small child, and that they wrongfully evicted a white tenant and his African-American fiancée because of her race.

The Government probed the allegations through the use of fair housing testers—individuals who pose as potential renters for purposes of gathering information about possible discriminatory practices in the rental of apartments. The complaint further alleged that the defendants’ responses to inquiries about housing availability differed based on the race of the tester, and that they explicitly discouraged testers with children from renting. In some instances, the defendants stated that in some apartments children simply were not allowed.

“Being able to secure housing without regard to one’s race or familial status is central to the ideal of equal opportunity,” said R. Alexander Acosta, Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division. “No landlord can dictate where a family lives simply on the basis of their race or children. The Justice Department is committed to vigorously opposing such discrimination.”

Under the agreement, the defendants will pay \$110,000 to compensate victims of their discrimination at any of the twelve apartment complexes they own or manage; pay a \$10,000 civil penalty to the United States Government; as

well as establish and follow non-discriminatory application and tenancy procedures.

The agreement remains subject to court approval.

This lawsuit was referred to the Justice Department by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, after complaints filed by New Mexico Legal Aid revealed a possible pattern or practice of race and familial status discrimination.

“Housing discrimination, no matter what form it takes, strips individuals and families of the opportunity to freely choose where they want to live,” said Carolyn Peoples, HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. “We applaud the Department of Justice’s efforts to protect the fair housing rights of every resident of this nation.”

The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or familial status (having children under 18 years old). Since January 2001, the Justice Departments Civil Rights Division has filed 102 Fair Housing Act cases, including fifty-three based on race and/or familial status.

Individuals who believe that they may have been the victim of housing discrimination at Fair Plaza Apartments; Casa Del Rey Norte, Sur & Oeste; La Hacienda Norte, Sur & Este; Playa Del Sol Apartments; Whitehouse Apartments; Graceland Apartments; El Pueblo or El Pueblo II Apartments should call the Justice Department’s Housing and Civil Enforcement Section at 800-896-7743, Extension 996.

Anyone wishing to report other unlawful housing discrimination should also contact the Department of Justice or HUD at 800-669-9777.

For more information about the Civil Rights Division, and the laws it enforces, go to www.usdoj.gov/crt.

Reservist earns Pitsenbarger award

Senior Master Sgt. Dale Berryhill, an airborne communications systems operator, Eglin AFB, Fla., earned the 2004 Pitsenbarger award, for heroism while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Berryhill was a crewmember on an MC-130E Combat Talon I about 50 miles northeast of Baghdad, when a fire erupted. The flames and smoke quickly engulfed the aircraft, filling it with toxic fumes.

While other crewmembers donned their personal protective gear, Sergeant Berryhill recognized the dire situation and immediately controlled the fire. He then discharged the halon fire extinguisher at the source of the inferno without wearing personal-protective gear.

Sergeant Berryhill then made in-flight emergency calls; he managed five different radio nets simultaneously and ensured all incoming flights and the landing area were clear.

When his landing aircraft was attacked by small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades, Sergeant Berryhill displayed amazing situational awareness when he passed pinpoint coordinates to the 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers, said Lt. Col. Kenneth Ray, 711th Special Operations Squadron commander.

The Air Force Sergeant’s Association gives the Pitsenbarger Award annually to an enlisted Airman for heroic acts, on or off duty, that save a life or prevent serious injury.

Mentor registration concludes today

Registration for mentors in the Mission-Driven Mentoring Program has been extended to today. There are 71 mentors registered in the system.

Individuals willing to serve as mentors by sharing their talents, expertise and experience with others across Kirtland AFB are needed.

Mentors will have the opportunity to strengthen their coaching skills, to demonstrate leadership and to contribute to the development of future leaders.

Contact: Vita Kelley, 846-9561; Mark Mora, 846-8958; Rosie Garcia, 846-9560; Ray Hunter, 846-9951; or for military, call 2nd Lt. Ben Biddell, 846-7338.

Remembering American war heroes

New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park

Taking a day off work or finding sale bargains are not the reasons for the Memorial Day holiday. Remembering our fallen heroes from past wars is our mission as free Americans. As part of remembering and honoring loved ones, friends and ancestors who died in conflicts and wars to preserve our freedoms, a variety of ceremonies and events May 31, 9 a.m., celebrate their memory.

Members of Kirtland AFB participate in a ceremony at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park, 1100 Louisiana Boulevard Southeast, just north from Gibson. The ceremony includes a keynote address by retired former chief chaplain of the Air Force, Maj. Gen. Donald Harlin, reading of proclamations by Albuquerque city officials, presentation of awards by U. S. Rep. Heather Wilson and music by the 44th Army Band.

Posting of colors is by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency Multi-service Honor Guard. A parade of flags is by the Kirtland AFB Color Flight. A parade of state flags is presented with support of Kirtland AFB active duty military members.

The 58th Special Operations Wing provides a flyover.

Placing of wreaths is by a Gold Star Mother, Gold Star Wives and the United Veterans Council.

The American Legion Post 49 provides a rifle salute and the 44th Army Band performs “Taps.”

The Memorial Day program is co-sponsored by the United Veterans Council of Greater Albuquerque, Kirtland AFB and the city of Albuquerque.

A free park-and-ride service is provided along Gibson and Louisiana from the Kirtland Federal Credit Union and Bank of America.

Santa Fe National Cemetery

Memorial Day ceremony at Santa Fe National Cemetery, 501 North Guadalupe, Santa Fe, is at 10:30 a.m.

Keynote speaker is New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson. Master of ceremonies is John Garcia, New Mexico Department of Veterans Services cabinet secretary.

Hilde Caserio, representing the Gold Star Mothers who have lost children in service to America, will place a wreath during the ceremony.

The Kirtland Honor Guard posts colors and the 58th Special Operations Wing provides a flyover.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2951 Honor Guard conducts a rifle salute and plays “Taps.” Cannon detail is by the New Mexico Army National Guard.

Music is by the Santa Fe Concert Band. For information, call 877-353-6295.

Rio Rancho Veterans Monument

Citizens of Rio Rancho, just outside Albuquerque to the northwest, remember veterans lost in war with a parade beginning at 10 a.m. from Sara Road and Southern Boulevard. The parade route east ends about 10:30-10:45 a.m. at the Rio Rancho Veterans Monument Park on Pinetree Road at Southern Boulevard.

Keynote speaker and parade grand marshal is Frank A. Buethe, New Mexico Wing commander of the Civil Air Patrol. He is a retired Marine Corps Reserve colonel, and was an active duty naval aviator with a combat tour in Vietnam.

The ceremony includes remarks by Rio Rancho Mayor Jim Owen who reads a proclamation, a New Mexico State Police Color Guard, playing of “Taps,” raising of the flag by members of the Young Marines of Rio Rancho, music at the veterans’ park by American Legion’s Albuquerque Dukes band and marching band music by the Rio Rancho High School led by Ken Schmidt.

Boulevard of Flags

A Boulevard of Flags is displayed Memorial Day at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park, 1100 Louisiana Southeast, north of Gibson Boulevard.

The display is also June 11 for the American Merchant Marine birthday; June 14 for the Army birthday and Flag Day; July 4 for Independence Day; Aug. 4 for the U.S. Coast Guard birthday; Sept. 17 for National Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day; Sept. 18 for the Air Force birthday; Oct. 12 for the Navy birthday; Nov. 10 for Marine Corps birthday; Nov. 11 for Veterans Day; and Dec. 7 for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

Memorial Day viewing

KNME Channel 5 broadcasts Memorial Day specials:

“National Memorial Day Concert,” May 30, 7 p.m., features actor and World War II veteran Ossie Davis as host in a program with Amber Tamblyn, Alison Krauss, Brad Paisley, Jason Ritter, Charles Durning, Joe Mantegna, Brian Stokes Mitchell and Joshua Bell with the National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Erich Kunzel.

“A Testament to Freedom,” May 30, 8:30 p.m. The documentary connects the process of erecting the National World War II Memorial in Washington, with stories of people in wars.

“Be Good, Smile Pretty,” May 30, 9:30 p.m. This personal documentary chronicles the filmmaker’s struggle to know and grieve for the father she never knew, a soldier who died in the Vietnam War.

“USS Wisconsin: The Last Battleship,” May 30, 10:30 p.m. The ship’s history and stories from men who served and fought on the last battleship built in the United States are presented.

“American Valor,” May 31, 8 p.m. The program provides a compelling look at American’s military heroes who received the country’s highest recognition, the Medal of Honor.

“War Letters,” May 31, 9:30 p.m. The film based on Andrew Carroll’s bestseller is a collection of personal correspondence from the American Revolution to the Gulf War.

Memorial Day messages from Air Force leaders

Secretary, chief of staff

WASHINGTON (AFPN)–The following is a Memorial Day message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:

“This Memorial Day beckons us once again to remember and reflect on the selfless sacrifices of members of America’s armed forces.

“While stories abound on the origins of the Memorial Day observance, one aspect remains abundantly clear—since it was first proclaimed officially in May 1868, Americans continue to enthusiastically honor the enormous sacrifices of all the service men and women who have paid the ultimate price for freedom, as well as thanking those who serve today.

“As the war on terror continues, our thoughts and prayers continue to be with our Airmen and their families. This year, we are more thankful than ever for your noble service, around the world and at home stations. America is forever indebted to you and your families for your commitment to the high calling of defending our nation.

“We encourage you to join us Monday at 3 p.m. local time to observe the National Moment of Remembrance as America honors those who have served so honorably and bravely as uniformed members of the armed forces. A White House resolution in 2000 designated the National Moment of Remembrance as an opportunity for all Americans to commemorate the true meaning of Memorial Day by observing one minute of silence, driving with their headlights on or participating in another appropriate activity honoring our fallen veterans.

“We thank you for what you do every day for America and America’s Air Force. You and your families are among our nation’s greatest treasures and we are honored to serve with you.

“May God bless you and your service, and may God continue to bless America.”

AFMC commander

BY GEN. GREGORY S. MARTIN
AFMC Commander

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio (AFMCNS)–From the Revolutionary War to today’s battle-torn areas of the world, America’s sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters have bought freedom and democracy at a precious price.

People living in the United States and around the world today enjoy unparalleled freedom because people wearing America’s military uniforms, past and present, have committed to a higher calling. Simply put, our country would not be the “land of the free” today if it truly were not the “home of the brave.”

Monday we celebrate our nation’s heritage by honoring the memory, sacrifice and dedication of each of our fallen comrades on Memorial Day.

We should all reflect on the words Abraham Lincoln said on the battlefield at Gettysburg: “...we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.”

So, as you observe this special weekend with family and friends, take time to remember those who have died while serving this country through the years. Their sacrifices extend beyond borders and across generations. Think how differently our lives might be if it weren’t for their dedication to a cause greater than self.

And as you’re taking part in your weekend activities, keep safety in the forefront of your mind. Preventable accidents have taken too many of our people this year. The military calling can take its chosen into harms way enough of the time; we don’t need to lose more souls to thoughtlessness.

My wife, Wendy, and I wish each of you a great Memorial Day weekend. God bless those who have gone before and their families; and God bless you and yours for what you do for the cause of freedom every day.